

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY SYSTEM
DISMISSAL REPORT

MUR: 7458

Respondents: Arizona Republican Party
and Bob Lettieri, Treasurer;
Debbie Lesko for Congress
and Ashley Ragan, Treasurer
("the Committee")¹

Complaint Receipt Date: August 6, 2018

Response Date: September 25, 2018

EPS Rating:

Alleged Statutory

52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(2)-(5), (8)

Regulatory Violations:

11 C.F.R. §§ 104.3(a)(3), (b)(2), 104.9(a), 104.11(b)

The Complaint alleges that the Committee used space at the Arizona Republican Party's office, but failed to report in-kind contributions or expenditures for such use. Respondents assert that the Committee leased the space for a fair market value of \$250 a month starting in July 2018, and that the rental payments were disclosed in the Committee's Reports. Respondents also deny that the Committee maintained any space in the Arizona Republican Party's office prior to the start of the lease, but acknowledge that Committee personnel would hold occasional impromptu meetings there before the start of the lease.

Based on its experience and expertise, the Commission has established an Enforcement Priority System using formal, pre-determined scoring criteria to allocate agency resources and assess whether particular matters warrant further administrative enforcement proceedings. These criteria include (1) the gravity of the alleged violation, taking into account both the type of activity and the amount in violation; (2) the apparent impact the alleged violation may have had on the electoral process; (3) the complexity of the legal issues raised in the matter; and (4) recent trends in potential violations and other developments in the law. This matter is rated as low priority for

¹ Debbie Lesko was a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives for Arizona's Eighth Congressional District. Debbie Lesko for Congress is her principal campaign committee.

Commission action after application of these pre-established criteria. Given that low rating and the likely modest amounts at issue with respect to the Committee meetings held on Arizona Republican Party's premises before the start of the lease term, we recommend that the Commission dismiss the Complaint consistent with the Commission's prosecutorial discretion to determine the proper ordering of its priorities and use of agency resources. *Heckler v. Chaney*, 470 U.S. 821, 831-32 (1985). We also recommend that the Commission close the file as to all Respondents and send the appropriate letters.

Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

Kathleen M. Guith
Associate General Counsel

2.6.19

Date

BY: Stephen Gura
Stephen Gura
Deputy Associate General Counsel

Jeff S. Jordan
Jeff S. Jordan
Assistant General Counsel

Kristina M. Portner
Kristina M. Portner
Attorney

6000001444001